

Dear Neighbors,

This time of year we all take time to focus on our families. Taking care of the families and the people of our community is the job that you elected me to do at the Capitol, too. This means many things – public safety, health care, looking out for the well-being of our seniors, making sure that the state is paying its fair share in municipal aid and support for education, and more.

In this mailing, I want to share with you three things that I think make a difference for our families and our neighborhoods – increasing job-training opportunities, protecting our neighborhoods from blighted properties, and giving our children a great baseball facility in Hyland Park.

We know that more tough budget choices will need to be made in the upcoming legislative session. Rest assured that I will be fighting on behalf of you, and all of my constituents, to preserve vital programs and services for our communities and our families.

Sincerely,



John Fonfara

State Senator, 1st District



## State Senator John Fonfara

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# State Senator John Fonfara Working for Our Community

## **Training for Construction and Weatherization Jobs**

One of the focuses of President Obama's stimulus package is to invest in America's infrastructure. These massive construction projects will provide jobs with good pay and benefits for many people. The Jobs Funnel program places individuals in training programs that will teach the skills needed to earn trade-related certifications for construction jobs. They also offer training in weatherization, an expanding area for jobs in our area. Once a training program is completed, they assist with job placement services. For more information, call the Jobs Funnel at **860-524-8859**; Capital Workforce Partners at **860-522-1111**; or, on the Web at [www.capitalworkforce.org/jobsfunnel](http://www.capitalworkforce.org/jobsfunnel). Informational sessions take place every Friday at 10 a.m. at Veeder Place, 20-28 Sargeant Street, Hartford (dial #5 for access to 3rd Floor).

## **Holding Banks Accountable for Vacant, Blighted Houses**

Foreclosed homes often stand empty and uncared for and can become a target for vandals. Studies have shown that one blighted, foreclosed property can bring down neighboring property values and increase neighborhood crime. Some of the neighborhoods that I represent have been hit especially hard by this most difficult aspect of the economic downturn. This year, we enacted a law that requires any bank, lender or holding company that owns a foreclosed property to register so that municipalities can enforce any state statute or municipal ordinance on the maintenance or repair of real estate. If a property near you has been foreclosed and it is not being maintained (high grass, no snow removal, vandalism), please call my office with the address. We will contact the local officials and the bank.

## **Funding for a New Baseball Field at Hyland Park**

I am very pleased that I was able to obtain \$500,000 in state funding to build a state-of-the art new baseball facility at Hyland Park, where the ball fields are used by the Roberto Clemente and Mayor Mike Peters Little Leagues. With this facility our future baseball stars will no longer have to go to the suburbs to play on a first-rate ball field. This new facility will have a completely new field, new fencing, dugouts, lighting, an electronic scoreboard and comfortable seating for families to see their children play. Construction begins in the spring.